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# Jersey Strips Shelton College of Its Accreditation

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TRENTON, Jan. 15 — The New Jersey Board of Higher Education today stripped academic accreditation from Shelton College, a small, fundamentalist Bible institution in Cape May headed by the controversial radio evangelist, the Rev. Dr. Carl McIntire.

The board said it had acted against the school because the college was ridden with "substantial academic deficiencies coupled with a lack of institutional integrity and administrative competence."

The board also charged that Shelton lacked "candor in dealing with the public, students and the state."

Board members said that Shelton was the first college in New Jersey to lose its accreditation, and state officials added that such penalties against a college or university were extremely rare in other states.

The board's decision does not mean that Shelton—which has 141 students—has to close. However, since the ruling takes away the college's award-granting privilege, state officials said that it was unlikely that Shelton could continue to operate.

The board's decision, which becomes effective at the end of the school year in June, touched off a protest here by nearly 100 Shelton students.

Half of them were jammed into the board's meeting room, where they stood up and sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" after the decision was announced. Later, the students marched to the nearby state auditorium singing, "Stand Up for Jesus," some of them with tears welling in their eyes.

Dr. McIntire stood before the students in the auditorium



Associated Press

**AFTER COLLEGE LOST ACCREDITATION: The Rev. Dr. Carl McIntire in Trenton discussing action of New Jersey Board of Higher Education against Shelton College.**

and vowed that he would appeal the board decision in the state courts and file a \$5-million damage suit against the board. He contended that the action was the result of a "left-wing conspiracy" to prevent him from training "Christian warriors" to fight against international Communism.

Mr. McIntire also said that the revocation of Shelton's license to award degrees was in retaliation against his recent efforts to generate American support for the war in Vietnam.

"It's a liberal frame-up and

the premeditated murder of a Christian college," he declared.

The board's ruling culminates 16 years of controversy that has surrounded Shelton College ever since it moved to New Jersey in 1954.

As examples of the school's alleged lack of candor, the board said that the Shelton catalogue listed nonexistent courses, that the school offered nonapproved courses and that its library had few books and that its faculty members were under paid and undertrained.

In its appeal to be filed with

the Appellate Division of the State Superior Court, the school intends to reiterate earlier legal arguments that its loss of accreditation violates the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and religion.

When it first moved to New Jersey from New York City, where it had been called the National Bible Institute, Shelton occupied an old estate in Ringwood in rural Passaic County.

But a zoning dispute there forced the school to move to Cape May in 1964 and there it occupied the Christian Admiral, an old resort hotel.

In 1965, the state moved to revoke Shelton's degree-awarding power, charging then that the school was financially unsound and that its faculty did not have sufficient members with graduate degrees. However, the state relented the following year, and Shelton was allowed to remain open until a further investigation was made by state educators.

The subsequent investigation led to today's decision.

Like the school, Mr. McIntire, has been surrounded by controversy ever since he began his radio program called the "Twentieth Century Reformation hour," which is carried five days a week by more than 600 stations throughout the country.

From his pulpit in Collingswood in Camden County and in his radio broadcasts, Mr. McIntire has preached a fiery denunciation of left-wing liberalism and championed such groups as the John Birch Society. His controversial activities have generated a move to revoke his license from the Federal Communications Commission to operate station WXUR in Media, Pa.